

SOME FURTHER NOTES ON SPECIES OF ICHNEUMONIDAE REARED AS ECTOPARASITES OF SPIDERS

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In 1985 I reported on some species of polysphinctine ichneumons that I had reared from spiders collected in Hampshire and West Sussex (*Proc. Trans. Br. Ent. Nat. Hist. Soc.* 18:32–34 1985). Since then I have encountered many more species throughout these two counties and this paper records my observations on them as well as on some additional specimens of those species already mentioned in that first account.

Schizopyga circulator (Panz.) reared from *Clubiona terrestris* West. (Family Clubionidae)

The sub-adult male and female hosts were found inside dead, hollow umbelliferous stems in woodland at Hilsea, Portsmouth. It is curious that this spider is host to two closely related species of parasitoid at this site. I have recorded *Schizopyga frigida* Cresson extensively over the years from exactly the same situation. In 1986 11 out of 48 spiders that I examined here carried larvae on them. Of those that reached maturity all except one proved to be *S. frigida*.

Sex	Collection Date	Size (mm)	Pupation Date	Final Size (mm)	Emergence Date
♂	9.iii.84	1.0	12.iv.84	6.0	29.iv.84
♀	30.iv.86	7.0	2.v.86	7.0	18.v.86

Polysphincta rufipes Grav. reared from *Larinioides cornutus* (Clerck) (Family Araneidae).

This is a fairly large species of polysphinctine which appears to favour this spider as a host, possibly because of the damp habitat with which it is often associated. The specimen listed was collected on an immature host at Horsea Island, an M.O.D. site at the northern end of Portsmouth harbour. I have a further specimen, reared from the same host species, which was collected by a friend of mine in South Wales in 1984.

Sex	Collection Date	Size (mm)	Pupation Date	Final Size (mm)	Emergence Date
♀	20.vi.87	3.0	27.vi.87	7.5	7.vii.87

Polysphincta boops Tschek reared from *Araniella opistographa* (Kulczynski) (Family Araneidae).

This is apparently a rare species and Hampshire is well out of its known distribution range in this country with the few specimens recorded prior to this all being found in Scotland or the Lake District. This single male was collected by a friend of mine from oak woodland near Basingstoke but unfortunately much of the data on larval size, pupation and emergence dates is unknown. All that can be said with certainty is that the host was beaten from oak foliage at the beginning of June 1986 and the parasitoid emerged towards the end of that month.

Zatypota albicoxa (Walk.) possibly from *Achaeranea lunata* (Clerck) (Family Theridiidae).

Another rare species, this particular specimen was collected as a pupa on 27.vi.86 on a Hampshire and Isle of Wight Trust reserve at Emer Bog near Romsey, and

emerged about a week later. The cocoon, some 6.5 mm long was in a theridiid web on a pine tree trunk and immediately below this was a web belonging to an immature *Achaeranea lunata* (Clerck), a spider from which this parasitoid has previously been reared. The discovery of this female at a site only 11 miles away from that mentioned in my previous paper indicates that perhaps the species is now established in this area of Hampshire.

Acrodactyla degener (Hal.) reared from *Lepthyphantes zimmermanni* Bertkau (Family Linyphiidae).

The adult female host was collected early in the year from amongst leaf litter in deciduous woodland at Hilsea near Portsmouth. This is the same site from where I reared the specimens of *Schizopyga circulator* mentioned above and to date I have recorded five species of polysphinctines from there.

Sex	Collection Date	Size (mm)	Pupation Date	Final Size (mm)	Emergence Date
♀	10.ii.87	0.5	5.iii.87	4.0	3.iv.87

Acrodactyla madida (Hal.) reared from *Meta* sp. (Family Metidae).

The host spider was immature and identification could not be made with certainty although the most likely species is *Meta segmentata* (Clerck), a very common and widespread spider. It was collected from low tree foliage in deciduous woodland near Denny Lodge in the New Forest. This parasitoid differs from other related species in that it overwinters as a prepupa in a cocoon instead of remaining on the host as a small larva. The fact that this one emerged before winter is due to it being kept indoors.

Sex	Collection Date	Size (mm)	Pupation Date	Final Size (mm)	Emergence Date
♀	20.ix.86	5.0	24.ix.86	6.0	17.x.86

Sinarachna pallipes (Holmgren) reared from *Araniella* sp. (Family Araneidae).

Again the host was immature and specific identification was not possible. It was collected from low tree foliage near Burton Park Lake, West Sussex. The parasitoid larva was already well developed and killed its host a few days after collection.

Sex	Collection Date	Size (mm)	Pupation Date	Final Size (mm)	Emergence Date
♂	14.vi.87	3.0	20.vi.87	5.0	3.vii.87

I would like to extend my thanks once more to Dr Mark Shaw of the Royal Scottish Museum for confirming the identity of my specimens and for his continued support and advice. Also to Mr Dick Jones for his assistance in host identification and for providing some of the specimens.

Spiders with polysphinctine larvae on them are often easy to spot in the field and most observant naturalists will probably encounter them in the course of their travels. Hopefully, if more interest can be aroused and people can be persuaded to devote a little time and effort into keeping and rearing them, a lot more will be learnt about both their biology and distribution.